

Fort Macon
Beaufort vicinity
Carteret County
North Carolina

HABS No. NC-79

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16-BEUF.V,
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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORIC AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA, *reduced copies of drawings*
District of North Carolina

Historic American Buildings Survey

Prepared at Washington Office
for Southeast Unit

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FORT MACON
Beaufort vicinity, Carteret County, North Carolina

Owner: United States Government

Date of erection: 1828-35; restored 1936

Present condition: Good

Description:

The fort is built in the sand dunes and is invisible from a distance. It is composed of an outer and an inner row of defenses, pentagonal in form. The moat between the two was formerly filled by the tide, but at one time it was filled with sand and so remains. The lower rooms of the outer defenses are flooded and inaccessible. The inner court is entered by an arched slype and is surrounded by vaulted chambers assigned to various uses and covered with sheet lead and sand to form the gun emplacements. These ramparts are reached by stone staircases supported on arched brick carriages.

Additional data:

A fort was built on this site in the middle of the eighteenth century which the present fort superseded. It was occupied by the Confederate Army until April 24, 1862, when it was captured by Burnside. It was garrisoned in the Spanish American and World Wars. It had strategic value as commanding Beaufort Inlet. In 1936 it was turned over to the State of North Carolina for use as a State park and was restored by the National Park Service and the State Conservation Commission.

Reference: North Carolina Guide, p. 518

Author: J.W.

Approved: 9/11/40

HISTORY OF FORT MACON.

p 2

For more than two hundred years the location of the present Fort Macon has been the site of different fortifications for the protection of Beaufort and other Coast towns from invasion from the sea. Edward Teach (Blackbeard) and other pirates passed through Old Topsail Inlet (now Beaufort Inlet) at the entrance to Bogus and Core Sounds on their way to hiding places in the sounds. (1)

The first fort built at the Inlet was built by the Lords Proprietors early in 1700 to keep guard over Beaufort and Bath, the two most important ports next to Wilmington in the region of what is now North Carolina. Twice it fell into the hands of plundering Spaniards. Spanish pirates captured the fort in 1731. A decade later the Spanish invasion from the West Indies broke down its defenses, but at so great a cost that it had to be evacuated. (2)

As early as 1712 there is mention of forts near this location for protection against the raids of the Spaniards. It was named in honor of Governor Edward Hynd. Its object was to protect the inhabitants of the region from the Indians following their frightful massacre of 1711. This was probably not at the exact location of the present fort, but early fortifications at that site did protect the early colonists from Indians, pirates and Spaniards. (3)

Governor Arthur Dobbs, in 1756, built what was known as a fascine fort on the location of the present structure at a cost of 1,392 pounds sterling, according to Abernethy's History of Carteret (4)

County. This was named Fort Dobbs originally, but was later changed
(6)
to Fort Hamilton.

On July 10, 1756, Governor Dobbs wrote to the Earl of London that the people of North Carolina "had appropriated 21,500 currency to erect a battery at Old Topsail Inlet or Port Beaufort, to defend that Harbor, there being deep water on the barr". Governor Dobbs stated in his letter that "he went also to Port Beaufort to fix upon a place for a Battery thereupon Bogue Banks". He said that "the house is already up and covering, and as it will be a fascine Battery and want no raising or piling, it will be soon finished".
(7)

Governor Dobbs reported in his letter that "it has also two faces, one which commands the entrance from the Bar and the other defends the Harbour. We purpose only 8 twelve pounders for the face next the Bar, and six six pounders for the other face with a Gunner Ordnance Stores, etc. and about thirty men to defend the Battery and House against any small Privateers, these altogether will require an independent company of 120 men or two companies of 60 each which will be more expensive, this colony has never yet had an Independent Company nor any assistance from Britain, altho' we have an extensive sea Coast and about 300 Vessels great and small which enter here in a year".
(8)

Target practice was carried on at Fort Hamilton (Hampton?) by
(9)
the British during the Revolutionary War.

According to a report made to the Lords Commissioners for Trade and Plantations about 1760 the battery at Old Topsail Inlet was

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furnished with barracks but there were no guns to mount upon them except
(10)
old ship guns carried from Fort Johnston.

When the Revolutionary War broke out it became necessary to strengthen the fort at Beaufort. The committee appointed by the Provincial Congress which met at Halifax on April 4, 1776, reported that, in their opinion, "the situation of Beaufort and the Inlets adjacent are such that it appears absolutely necessary that a considerable military force should be stationed at or near said town, to prevent our enemies from landing there". It recommended that until further provision was made for the defense of the County, "the company of 50 men now raised by the Committee of said county be continued for that purpose so long as the
(11)
said committee shall judge it necessary". On April 26, 1777, the General Assembly appointed a committee "to enquire and make report on the defense immediately necessary for Ocracoke Inlet and the part of Beaufort and
(12)
Roanoke".

The first fort stood until the end of the Revolution. In 1791 the Federal Government ordered a new fort built nearer the Inlet and
(13)
named it "Fort Hamilton" in honor of Alexander Hamilton.

On September 20, 1777, a group of residents of Carteret County wrote to Governor Caswell, setting forth the critical situation of Beaufort, and requested a few pieces of ordnance placed at the Inlet. They presumed that with three or four 6 or 4 pounders they could secure the
(14)
Inlet from the attempts on Trader. Three months later the General Assembly ordered Mr. John Easton of Carteret County to "take and keep in his possession until directed all guns, ammunitions and other arms be-

In 1803, the State of North Carolina ceded to the United States Government part of the present tract, and, later, in 1826, conveyed about (18) 405 acres more for the sum of \$1,287.00. By an Act of the State Legislature, ratified December 18, 1807, the State ceded to the Federal Government for fortification purposes five acres of land in Carteret County, subject to the proviso that a fort should be erected thereon within three (19) years. A tract of six acres and 118 square perches was acquired by deed dated May 1, 1810, from Jonas Small and Joseph Davis, for \$200.00. (20) The title to 405.59 acres was obtained by the Federal Government, pur-

suant to an Act of the North Carolina General Assembly ratified January
(21)
4, 1826.

Under this Act the State obligated itself to get title to the
land in question and transfer it to the United States in case the pro-
prietor of the lands should refuse to convey it to the United States or
should be unknown. On June 1, 1826, Judge J. R. Donnell of the Superior
Courts of Law and Equity issued a writ of venire facias to the Sheriff of
Carteret County, commanding him to draw a jury to value, lay off and
allot to the Federal Government the necessary land. On October 11, 1826
(22)
the State was paid for the land \$1,287.00.

In 1811 Nathanael Mason had secured an appropriation of
(23)
\$302,500.00 for building the citadel to protect Beaufort Inlet. Plans
(23)
and estimates for building the fort were not made, however, until 1824.
On March 24, 1826, the Chief Engineer issued a report in which he esti-
mated the expense of building the fort to take the plan of the ruins of
(24)
Fort Hampton to be \$175,000.00.

(25)
Work on the new fort began in July, 1826. The first masonry
(26)
was laid in June, 1827. Two months later there was a severe storm
which seriously injured the new fort. The damage was soon repaired,
however, and the Chief Engineer in his annual report for the year 1828
(27)
stated that the masonry had made considerable progress.

Due to the difficulty of securing a suitable supply of brick
of a suitable quality, progress on the fort was not as great as expected
(28)
during the year 1829. In addition to this handicap it was discovered

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WASHINGTON

During the year, 1834, the wharf which had become useless from decay was rebuilt and also a dike to connect it with the fort. The results of the operations which had been carried on for the preservation of the beach proved very satisfactory. It was reported by the Chief Engineer on November 1, 1834, (annual report for year ending September 30, 1834) (32) that the fort was completed and ready for inspection. In his report of November 15, 1835 (year ending September 30, 1835) it was stated that the fort had been completed and was now garrisoned. The total amount (33) expended on the fort up to September 30, 1835, was \$349,384.94. (The (34) Raleigh News and Observer says it was completed at a cost of \$463,790.00). (35)

Fort Macon was first garrisoned by United States troops on
(37)
December 4, 1834. They were a battery of artillery men under the com-
mand of Captain R. N. Kirby, a native of Connecticut. (38) The garrison

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was withdrawn February 3, 1836 but it was replaced July 28, 1842. (39)

The Fort occupies the eastern extremity of Bogue Island and commands Beaufort Harbor. The town of Beaufort lies about two miles off, (40)
a little east of north, across the harbor.

The fortress covers about eight acres. Outside defenses are arranged in the shape of a huge square, the sand and masonry walls, twenty feet thick, extending more than a score of feet in the sand, making the breastworks invisible from the sea. Powder and shells were stored in (41)
lower magazines. The outer walls are approximately thirty feet in height.

Between the outside defenses and the secondary defenses which form the fort proper is a moat twenty to thirty-six feet wide and about fifteen feet deep. There is a canal about ten feet wide in the center of the moat. This canal was originally filled to a depth of four or five feet with water. The moat was spanned by a drawbridge from the tramway which led from the boat landing pier on Bogue Sound.

The fort itself is a five sided figure of irregular shape. But two of the five sides have the same length. Beginning with the road-way entrance side, and continuing around to the right, its dimensions are as follows: 305 feet; 390 feet; 175 feet; 175 feet; and 195 feet, making a total distance around the outer wall, or parapet, of 1,140 feet.

In the center of the fort is an open court shaped exactly as the outer walls. The space between the two walls which form the secondary defense is divided up into thirty-four separate compartments, all

with underground communicating doors. The larger of these rooms are 20 by 38 feet, with beautifully arched ceilings, which were originally lathed and plastered.

The workmanship displayed in all the arches and walls is unsurpassed even by modern workmanship. (42) Some of the most intricate designs in brick work in America are found there. Hundreds of brick were shaped carefully to fit in mosaic like displays for arches, floor and walls. (43)

In the fort are underground compartments at three corners of the fortification, each 23 feet by 23 feet, in which ammunition and other supplies and equipment were stored. Inside the parapet wall and five feet from the top is a brick area-way about twenty feet wide with a coping of brown stone slabs, four feet in width, extending around the entire circuit of the moat. The outer wall is eighteen feet high and four feet thick. It is filled with earth and sand around the outer side and forms a huge, sloping mound or rampart of more than four acres. Immediately behind this wall were constructed the emplacements and circular iron tracks for the guns. Those cannon, thirty three in number, were so placed and mounted as to guard the channel approach to Beaufort Harbor.

A garrison of one thousand men could be accommodated comfortably in the fort. It is provided with kitchens, bakeries, laundry and storage rooms. (44)

It is not known when the garrison which was placed at Fort Macon in 1842 was withdrawn but for years prior to the Civil War it had been occupied only by ordnance sergeants who had charge of the property.

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During the troublesome days in 1860 when war seemed imminent the question arose as to what action the Federal Government would take in regard to the United Army posts in North Carolina. These were Forts Fisher, Caswell, Macon, and the Fayetteville Arsenal. Early in November troops were sent to the arsenal at Fayetteville at the request of the Mayor and Citizens of Fayetteville who feared an insurrection. Excitable people became convinced that all the United States Army Posts were likely to be regularly garrisoned and a movement to take possession of them developed. (45)

In January 1861, Governor Ellis was approached in regard to the matter and was urged to order the seizure of the posts, but he refused even to consider the proposal. After Forts Caswell and Johnston had been seized, however, by the Cape Fear Minute men, a group of citizens of Wilmington ordered the forts to be evacuated. Governor Ellis then made inquiries in Washington as to the intentions of the War Department in regard to the forts. He asked the President if the posts were to be garrisoned and was assured by Secretary Holt that the Administration regarded the forts as safe in "law-abiding North Carolina", but in the event of their being threatened, they would be protected. (46)

On April 17, following his refusal of troops to President Lincoln, Governor Ellis issued a call for a special session of the Legislature to begin on May 1. Fort Macon had already been taken and he now ordered the seizure of the others, which was accomplished

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at once.

By the following September the War was well under way, yet Fort Macon was entirely inadequate for the defense of Beaufort Harbor. On September 4th, Mr. H. K. Burgwyn wrote to Mr. S. R. Mallory, Secretary of the Confederate States Navy, pleading for reinforcements for Fort Macon. He reported that Fort Macon had not one practical gunner. It had no fuses, rifled cannon or ordnance officer and only raw troops without proper supplies.

Six weeks later Fort Macon was still unprepared and Brigadier-General D. H. Hill, who had been placed by the Secretary of War in charge of the coast defense of North Carolina from Fort Macon to the Virginia line, sent an urgent appeal to the Secretary of War to send reinforcements. He declared that Fort Macon could not be held without four more efficient guns of long range and reported that it then had but four guns of long range and they were illy supplied with ammunition and mounted on very inferior carriages. Nevertheless, the Secretary of the Navy was unable to comply with General Hill's request and simply referred the matter to the Secretary of War.

Early in September, 1861, a rumor was spread abroad by the British ship "Alliance" at Beaufort that the blockading squadron was preparing to attack Fort Macon on the morning of September 8th. Governor Clark of North Carolina wrote to Secretary of War Mallory informing him of the rumor. He stated that the fort had no gunners who could manage the guns and requested that the fort be supplied with officers who understood the use of guns.

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HYDRAULIC COLLECTIONS
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Although the threatened attack did not actually take place, there are indications that the scare occasioned by the rumor did awaken the Confederate authorities to the inadequacy of the Fort. On September 30th, George A. Prentiss, Commander of one of the Federal ships stationed off Beaufort, reported that Fort Macon had been very much strengthened within the past twenty days. The barbette guns had been protected and obstructions removed in front of the casemates. He estimated that as many as seventy five guns were then in position and said that others were being added daily, including a number of rifled cannon. About two thousand men were cantoned outside the fort.

Prentiss reported that the fort could be carried but that it would require ten thousand men to cooperate with the fleet. He outlined a plan of attack by which Fort Macon was to be ~~filled~~ on from three directions. In his opinion the fleet could form in line outside the bank at a distance of a mile and a half in four and one half fathoms of water. The troops could easily land on Shackleford and Bogue banks, out of range, and, supplied with sand bags, could in a single night secure themselves from attack. Prentiss thought that they could then advance their work at pleasure on Shackleford to within a mile and a half of Macon and on Bogue as near as half a mile. In his opinion the Fort could not withstand this ~~trifle~~ fire. It must fall and the garrison could not escape. (51)

Three months later, Prentiss learned from a boy who had served as servant in the fort that there were about four hundred men within the walls of the fort. There were casemates with a curtain in front, but no guns

mounted. They were used as quarters for men and officers. There was a battery of four guns on Harker's Island. In all the boy reported about two thousand regulars at six different points near the Fort. Prentiss ventured that with five hundred men and six guns and with entrenching tools (52) he could take and hold against all comers the harbor on Shackleford Bank.

Before General Burnside could safely attempt to carry out his plans of moving on Goldsboro, Raleigh, Fort Caswell, and Wilmington, he felt it necessary to undertake the capture of Fort Macon. The possession of Macon would leave no confederate stronghold to menace his rear. More important still, his forces, until Macon was in his hands, would have to be supplied by small light draft vessels which, after daring the storms of Hatteras, had to thread a tortuous way through the sounds to New Bern.

Fort Macon controlled the harbor of Beaufort, the best on the North Carolina Coast. By its capture the Federals in North Carolina would have quick access by open sea to Fort Monroe and Washington, and their army could be supplied by the largest steamers. Moreover, the Atlantic Blockading squadron would always have a convenient temporary base and a commodious refuge in time of storms. Immediately, therefore, after the Battle of New Bern, General Burnside started General Parke with portions of his brigade to take possession of Moorehead City, Carolina City, and Beaufort, and to invest Macon.

The inlet to the sound, a narrow passage, separates Bogue Banks from Shackleford Banks, almost due east, and guns of ordinary range could easily reach the fort from the point of Shackleford Banks just opposite. Beaufort is about two miles northeast of the fort, and Carolina City

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WASHINGTON

Parke's headquarters, is about five miles northwest. Outside of the range of the guns on the land side of Macon, the fort was absolutely unprotected.

The garrison of Fort Macon, commanded at the time of the siege by Colonel Moses J. White, consisted of four companies of the Tenth North Carolina Regiment and one Company of the Twentieth North Carolina. The total number of these companies as reported by Colonel White, was about four hundred. A three months supply of provisions was always maintained in the fort.

General Parke, accompanied by the Fourth and Fifth Rhode Island and the Eighth Connecticut regiments, reached Carolina City just west of Morehead City on March 22nd. There, at the terminus of the railroad on the shore of Bogus Sound, he established headquarters. After the refusal by Colonel White of a summons to surrender the fort, General Parke began preparation for a regular siege, for the fort was too strong to be taken by assault. The difficulties in his way were great. The process by which the army organization had to transport everything needed for the siege from New Bern to the desolate banks was slow and laborious. (54)

In carrying out his plans for investment, Parke stationed the Sixth New Jersey as a rear guard at the Trenton bridge, which had been rebuilt by the Fifth Rhode Island after the Confederates burned it. Carolina City was occupied by two Companies under Major Allen, and Beaufort by three Companies. A gunboat served to blockade Core Sound and two or three small boats cut off the fort from all communications through Bogue Sound. The first troops were transported to Bogue Banks on March 29th. From that

time until April 10th every available hour of night and day was spent
(55)
in transporting men, siege trains and supplies.

On April 4th, Fort Macon was fired upon by the blockading
(56)
squadron and the fire kept up for one and one-half hours. There is
no record, however, that any damage was done to the fort by this bom-
bardment.

The grim fort was stripped for battle. Outside buildings were
burned; boats at the docks were destroyed; wooden protections from weather
were torn away; sandbags were placed to protect guns and gunners; ammu-
nition was laid out. Stock was taken for the Commanding Officer. For the
commissary department Captain C. W. King reported an ample supply of pre-
visions. The returns from the ordnance officer, Lieutenant Thad Coleman, were
not so pleasant. He reported a sufficiency of shot, shell, and fuses, but
less than a three day's supply of very inferior powder if the fire of the
guns were continuous.

Thus equipped the fort awaited the coming bombardment. There
was, however, nearly a month to wait for the final ordeal. During this
period General Parke dispatched to the banks eight companies of the
Fourth Rhode Island Regiment, seven companies of the Eighth Connecticut
Regiment, and the Fifth Rhode Island Battalion, Company G, First United
States Artillery, and Company I, Third New York Artillery. Signal stations
were established to communicate with the fleet and the shore towns.

After the landing of these troops the confederate outpost of one
company under Captain S. D. Pool was driven into the fort. Three batteries
were set up behind sand knolls. These sand knolls, covered at times with

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stunted trees, afforded excellent cover for artillerymen and their infantry supports. The first battery of four 10-inch mortars, commanded during the bombardment by Lieutenant D. W. Flagler, was located near the marsh and about 1,680 yards from the fort. Captain L. O. Morris' battery of three 30 pounder Parrotts was 200 yards in advance and to the right of the first. A battery of four 8-inch mortars in charge of Lieutenant M. N. Prouty was placed another 200 yards in advance and near the sea. (57) These guns were only 1,280 yards from the fort. In addition to the batteries, rifle pits had been dug at intervals across the front to repel any sortie by the Confederates and to shelter sharpshooters who had been pushed in close to pick off gunners in the fort. These trenches received from thirty to fifty shells each day from White's forces. The batteries were connected by trenches which zig zagged around the sand hummocks. No batteries were erected on Shackleford Banks or at Beaufort as had been planned. (58)

While the land forces were thus preparing for the siege, four United States War ships stood by waiting for the moment to attack. Commander Samuel Lockwood, in charge of the squadron, reported on April, 19 that he had held a consultation with the Commanders of the different vessels relative to their several duties and submitted a plan of attack (59) on Fort Macon by the naval forces.

The thirteen guns of the land batteries opened a simultaneous fire about sunrise on April 25th. When the thunder of these heavy guns was heard at sea, Commander Lockwood bore down close to the breakers with his four ships carrying twenty-three guns and joined in the fierce bombardment. The weight of metal converging against the isolated fort was,

however, not yet completed. apparently under General Burnside's personal direction the two floating batteries of Nichols and Baxter, armed with four rifled Parrott 30-pounders and one wiard 12-pounder, were towed into position for action, but owing to high winds, only one of these guns could be used. As soon as the fleet ran within range, the heavy guns of Guion and Pool in the fort were swung seaward. The squadron, no doubt, escaped greater damage because its officers followed in this conflict, too, the practise recently introduced into the navy by Stringham; they discharged their guns, not from anchor, but as they steamed rapidly by their objectives in a continuous circle. After an action of an hour and a quarter, Lockwood's squadron was compelled by the violence of the sea to withdraw. Their retirement was a disappointment to Pool and Guion, who had set their hearts on sinking some or all of their boats.

(60)

On uninterrupted fire from the Federal land batteries continued for ten hours. No Confederate guns on the parapet facing the entrance to the harbor could be brought to bear on the land batteries nor could those on the parapet facing Beaufort. Hence the fort could use only half of its guns. From the Federal observation tower in Beaufort, signal officers corrected with remarkable precision errors in the ranges of their gunners on the banks.

Fort Macon surrendered after being bombarded for ten hours.

Burnside had spent five weeks in the siege. Flag Officer Goldsborough (64) congratulated Commander Lookwood on the capture and reported to the Secretary of the Navy on May 2, that Fort Macon was in the possession of

(65)
the United States.

The fort was garrisoned by the Federals immediately after its evacuation and occupied by them until the close of the war. The confederate loss during the bombardment was seven killed and eighteen wounded; the union loss was one killed and three wounded. (66)

There were but two articles in the terms of capitulation agreed upon for the surrender of Fort Magon. The first required that the fort, armament, and garrison be surrendered to the forces of the United States. The second article permitted the release of the officers and men of the garrison on their parole of honor not to take up arms against the United States until properly exchanged, and to return to their homes, taking with them all their private effects, such as clothing, bedding, books, etc.

The acquisition of the excellent harbor which Magon had hitherto guarded was an incalculable boon to the Federals. It gave them a deep water base that was in quick communicating distance with their central supply depots, a safe coaling station south of Fort Monroe, a minor repair station, and a commodious refuge from the storms off a dangerous coast.

The successes of the Burnside expedition, which closed with the surrender of Fort Magon, were permanently damaging to the state and to the Confederacy. If the central government had accurately informed itself of the strength of the impending invasion and then clearly estimated its own inadequate preparations to meet the land and naval forces of Burnside, the calamitous results would no doubt have been prevented, for enough disciplined troops were hurried into North Carolina, after both of these things were realized, to have checked the invasion. (68)

The occupation of this territory in rear of General Lee's army by a mobile force that could be safely increased by water in a few hours was a constant menace to operations in Virginia. Henceforth, whenever a strategic blow by the Army of Northern Virginia was under contemplation, it had to be thought out with the possibility of a counter-strike from the easily enlargeable army squatted behind the fortifications of New Bern and within a few hours by open sea of the Confederate Capitol. Moreover a large number of State and Confederate troops, urgently needed by Lee for offensive warfare, had henceforth to be detailed to hold the army at New Bern in check. In addition, the loss of army supplies from the largest corn and meat producing section of the Confederate States nearest to Virginia was irreparable - supplies, too, that had been accessible through inland water ways safe from molestation by the unopposed Federal fleet and without throwing additional traffic on the already overburdened railways of the South.

Nor should the effect on the blockade business, which so largely furnished to the state and the Confederacy the necessities which were not produced in the South, be overlooked. While Beaufort and the inlets of the sounds were in Confederate hands, the daring blockade captains had choice of several ports on the North Carolina Coast, and ran for the one least guarded at the time of their approach. Hereafter they could make only for Wilmington. Of course, too, the Federal fleet which had been patrolling four hundred miles of coast now concentrated around that port very thickly. (69)

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North Carolina suffered an appalling property and territorial loss by the Federal blows which culminated in the taking of Fort Macon. Henceforth, there were thirteen counties which were practically administered by Federal officers. Even in contiguous counties great quantities of cotton and naval stores were destroyed lest they should fall into the hands of Federal raiders. The people of the State as we find their feelings indicated by newspapers, letters and speeches were surprised and angered (70) by the apparently easy conquest of so much of their territory.

After the Civil War but little attention was paid to Fort Macon until the Spanish-American War in 1898. During the War with Spain the (71) Fort was occupied by Colonel James Young and a company of negro soldiers. It was supplied with two 100-pound Parrott rifles, and two 10-inch mortars were also mounted. No actual fighting occurred there during the war, (72) however. After the War all the guns were dismounted and the fort (73) abandoned. Although the bulwarks were officially abandoned the Fort (74) remained a military reservation of the Federal Government. The property was left in the care of the United States Government Coast Guard. (75) Their headquarters were built immediately adjoining the fortification.

By act of Congress, June 4, 1924, 412.3 acres, including the Fort, were granted to the State of North Carolina, to be administered as a park by the State Department of Conservation and Development. The formal (76) transfer took place in 1925. A strip of land about four hundred feet wide, extending from the Atlantic Ocean to Bogue Sound about one hundred yards west of the Fort proper was not included in the grant. This strip continued to be occupied and controlled by the United States Coast Guard.

The Fort Macon Coast Guard station is operated by the United States Treasury Department. The guardsmen watch the Inlet, Atlantic Ocean, and Bogue Sound surrounding the Fort property. Each year a number of ships and boats in distress are helped by the crew of this station. (77)

The main channel which was only a few hundred feet east of the fort until a few years ago has been gradually moved about two thousand feet eastward leaving a large area above water that will probably be added permanently to the park tract by the planting of grass and shrubs. (78)

The Forestry Division of the North Carolina Department of Conservation and Development is conducting tree planting experiments on the Park property; and sand dunes along the new driveway have been anchored with native myrtle, cedar, yapon and palms. The experiment was undertaken in the hope that it would prove the feasibility of afforesting part of the large bank area which extends all the way from Virginia to the South Carolina line. The Maritime, loblolly, slash and short leaf pines are some of the species which have been tried. (79) (80) (81)

The Park property is a wild life sanctuary. No one is permitted to hunt or molest any of the animals, birds or water fowl on the property. Many species of bird life and practically all native water and shore birds are found in or near the Park.

The shore birds consist of sandpipers of a number of species, turnstones, wilson plover, stipe (migratory), willets, oyster catchers, clapper rail and several species of herons. There are many species of water birds which inhabit the vicinity of the Park. Some of them are

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the herring, ringbill and laughing gulls, and the swift flying terns (royal, common, black and least). Others are the black skimmers, mergansers, coons, grebes, brown pelicans, bitterns and the double crested cormorants. During the winter there are many species of ducks as well as geese and brant. Common land birds on and around the Park are the boat-tailed grackle, fish crows, fish hawks, bald eagles, marsh wrens, seaside, sharp-tailed and marsh sparrows, mocking birds, kingfishers and painted buntings.

There is excellent salt water fishing around the State Park property. Trout, both speckled and gray, blue fish, spanish mackerel, cere (horse mackerel), sheepshead, flounders, channel bass or drum, hogfish, shark and blackfish are all found.

(82)

Plants which are found in the Park are:

Herbs on Inner Beaches.

Marsh Grass	-	Spartina patens
Sand Bar	-	Cenchrus Tribuloides
Sea Croton	-	Croton Maritimus
Goosefoot, Pigweed	-	Chenopodium Botrys
Jerusalem Cherry	-	Physalis viscosa
Saltwort	-	Salsola Kali

Trees and Shrubs.

Dwarf Palmetto	-	Sabal glabra
Red Cedar	-	Juniperus Virginiana
Youpon	-	Ilex vomitoria
Wax Myrtle	-	Myrica Cerifera
Hercules Club	-	Zanthoxylum Clava - Hercules
Live Oak	-	Quercus Virginiana
Swamp Bay	-	Persea Pubescens
Devilwood	-	Osmanthus Americanus
French Mulberry or Beautyberry	-	Callicarpa
Inkberry	-	Ilex glabra.

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Herbs on Outer Beaches.

Spurge	-	Euphorbia Polygonifolia
Pigweed	-	Amaranthus pumilus
Marsh Grass	-	Spartina juncea
Chestnut Rush	-	Fimbristylis Castanea

Dunes

Sea Oats	-	Uniola paniculata
Jerusalem Cherry	-	Physalis viscosa
Sea Croton	-	Croton punctatus
Goldenrod	-	Solidago sempervirens
Evening Primrose	-	Oenothera humifusa

Vines

Alabama Supplejack	-	Berchemia scandens
Smilax	-	Smilax Bonanox
Laurel Greenbrier	-	Smilax laurifolia
Bullace Grape	-	Vitis rotundifolia
Virginia Creeper	-	Paedera quinquefolia
Poison Ivy	-	Rhus Toxicodendron (83)

The old Fort remained in a state of delapidation and decay until unemployment relief funds from the Federal Government were made available. Under the joint direction of the National Park Service and the State Department of Conservation and Development the restoration of the Fort was undertaken through the Emergency Conservation work program. (84)
It was completed in the fall of 1935.

Part of the improvement and restoration program which has been carried out includes the construction of a new road from the Atlantic Beach causeway, making the park available for the first time by automobile. (85)
Old garrison rooms and officers' quarters have been restored. The duplication of the cobblestone approach and hand carved woodwork required research in Washington, as also did the replacement of fire places, port-

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holes, plastering and floors in several rooms of the old fortress.

Ivy and debris were removed from the unique cistern and drainage systems. Cannon balls, moulds, coins and other old relics were un-
(86)
earthed at the site.

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